



President's Message

Dear Leaguer,

As Co-President of the LWV Milwaukee County, I think I have the greatest job in the volunteer community! I have been a League member since 1977 and am so proud to lead the League again. I look forward to working with Truesillia "Ruth" Shank as we work to move the League forward.

What is the value of being a LWV member? It is an opportunity to network, learn more about public policy issues and develop leadership skills as we serve and improve our Milwaukee community. As a long time Leaguer, I value the friendships that have developed over a lifetime. Working on issues and projects with men and women from a variety of backgrounds, interests and ages is a unique advantage to being an active League member. We are a diverse and energetic group.

I am retired after nearly thirty proud years as an early childhood educator for Milwaukee Public Schools. I have two adult children and a granddaughter, Camellia. In the League my major areas of interest are voting rights and reducing human trafficking. I enjoy gardening, reading, listening to blues music and traveling. My other volunteer commitment is being landscape chair and serving on the Board of my Condo Association.

Many of the skills I learned in the League are being put to good use.



Mary Kae Nelson

Co-President

Photo Above: Co-Presidents Mary Kae Nelson and T. Ruth Shank

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CALENDAR

July 2015			
8	Wed	6-7:30 pm	Board Meeting 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Mary Kae Nelson, 414-964-9988; Ruth Shank, 414-763-2471
9	Thurs	9 am 11 am	Naturalization / New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave., Courtroom 390 Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195
11	Sat	9:30 - 11:30 am	Calendar Planning Meeting - LWV-MC St. John's on the Lake, 1800 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Sarajane Kennedy
20	Mon	12:30-2 pm	Membership Committee St. John's on the Lake, 1800 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Shirley Halloran, 414-964-1355
23	Thurs	9 am 11 am 2 pm	Naturalization / New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave., Courtroom 320 Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195
27	Mon	1:30-3 pm	Voter Services Committee 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195
August 2015			
5	Wed	6-8 pm	New Member Orientation Shirley Halloran's Home, 2773 N. Maryland, Apt. C, Milwaukee RSVP: Shirley Halloran, 414-964-1355
6	Thurs	11 am	Naturalization / New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E. Wisconsin Ave., Courtroom 320 Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195
12	Wed	6-7:30 pm	Board Meeting 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Mary Kae Nelson, 414-964-9988; Ruth Shank, 414-763-2471
17	Mon	12:30-2 pm	Membership Committee St. John's on the Lake, 1800 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee Contact: Shirley Halloran, 414-964-1355
20	Thurs	9 am 11 am 2 pm	Naturalization / New Voter Registration Federal Courthouse, 517 E Wisconsin Ave., Courtroom 390 Contact: Mary Jo McDonald, 414-962-8195
24	Mon	4:30 - 6:30 pm	Voter Services Committee Social & Meeting Home of Dannette Lank, RSVP by email to dlank@execpc.com
29	Sat	2-4 pm	Women's Equality Day Celebration Central Library Details TBA

New Member Orientation

New/prospective members and those who want to know more about the LWV are invited to an orientation Wednesday, August 5th, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Shirley Halloran's home, 2773 N. Maryland Avenue. This is an outstanding opportunity to learn of League's mission, recent and future activities, meet women and men who are "making democracy happen." And we serve delicious appetizers. Please RSVP to Shirley at halloranshirley@gmail.com or 414-964-1355 by August 3. We hope to see many of you there.

**Planning
the
LWV-MC 2015-2016 League Year**

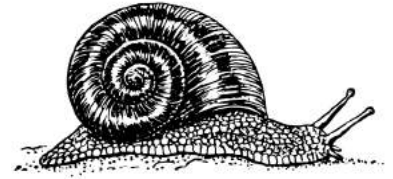
Saturday, July 11, 2013
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
St. John's on the Lake
1800 N. Prospect Avenue
Milwaukee

Help plan the 2015-2016 LWV-MC year
Ideas/topics for general meetings, unit
meetings, etc. are welcome

If possible, email Sarajane Kennedy, VP-Program,
at sarajane.kennedy@gmail.com before July 11 with your
suggestions

Board members and committee chairs/members
are encouraged to attend, but all members are welcome!

E-Mail vs. Snail-Mail



As most of you know, the League communicates with its members primarily via email to save our planet Earth. Kudos to you when you open this issue on your computer.

However, a handful of you ask that *The Voter* be delivered via the U.S. Mail. Please know that it costs LWV-MC \$1 .25 per issue for postal delivery. And volunteers spend time to prepare the newsletter for mailing. Please keep this in mind—maybe email can work for you, too?

Join the Communications team!



We are seeking three members to work on our communications team. Duties may include keeping our website current, email, Facebook, Google docs, and Twitter. The work is flexible, meaning you can work from home on your computer. This is a part-time commitment for one year. Experience is desirable, but we'll also provide training.

If you are a member who has limited time, or if you're a newer member who's trying to figure out what we do, here's a fantastic opportunity for involvement. Interested? Contact Teri Lane at teri.lane1@gmail.com.

State Annual Meeting

June 5-6, 2015

Over 90 members and guests attended the annual meeting of the LWV-WI in Ashland on a beautiful June weekend, including four members of the LWV-MC.

Dawn White and Esteban Chiriboga of the Great Lakes Indian, Fish, and Wildlife Commission gave the morning keynote speech, “The Socioeconomic Value of Healthy Ecosystems”. They presented compelling information for preserving and restoring natural ecosystems. An example of mining operations in Minnesota provided a cautionary tale. After mining accidents and destruction of wetlands that cleaned the water for free, it is now necessary to install reverse osmosis systems at a cost of \$20 million with an additional \$2-3 million annually for maintenance to clean the water.

The Membership, Leadership, and Fund Development presentation provided useful suggestions for improving local leagues. The Milwaukee County league received a \$25 runner-up award for membership and leadership development.

A new Inter-League Organization is forming: the LWV Upper Mississippi Region. Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin leagues will be part of it. The new league will be similar to the LWV-Lake Michigan Region, working on issues like farm run-



off, stormwater management, and other issues that affect the health of the Mississippi River. Local leagues in the four states bordering the upper Mississippi will be eligible to join the new ILO when it becomes official.

The delegates unanimously approved the recommended state programs: position update of the urban policy position and actions on infrastructure and the economy, protection of water resources, and redistricting.

Melanie Ramey, who served as LWV-WI president for 10 years, stepped down and Debra Cronmiller of Appleton was elected president.

The meeting concluded with an optional tour of the Penokee Hills led by Northland College geoscientist, Tom Fitz. Many attendees took advantage of the opportunity to learn more about mining and Wisconsin geology. It may be necessary to mine for the valuable mineral deposits, but it must be done with care for more than short-term profit. The best scientific research must be used to protect our natural ecosystems.

The Voter Production Crew:

Chris Hansen, Sr. Editor & Layout
Shirley Halloran, Editor
Louise Petering, Advisor

Contact us at:

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Milwaukee, WI 53202
League@lwvmilwaukee.org

Making Democracy Work Award

The League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County presented its first “Making Democracy Work” Award at its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 20, 2015. The award was presented to the City of Milwaukee Election Commission “with gratitude for extraordinary dedication to ensuring fair and accessible elections.” Accepting the plaque for the Commission were Teri Gabriel, Deputy Director, and Claire Woodall, Election Services Specialist. In addition, a certificate was presented for each staff person at the Commission including Neil Albrecht (Executive Director), Terri Gabriel, Mary Guardiola, Dan Puhek, Denise Walton, Phyllis Whitley, and Claire Woodall.



Left to Right: **Claire Woodall** (Election Services Specialist, Milwaukee Election Commission); **Mary Kae Nelson** (LWV-MC Co-President); **Terri Gabriel** (Deputy Director, Milwaukee Election Commission); and **Joanne Barndt** (LWV-MC Immediate Past President).

Action Groups Formed

Mary Kae Nelson

On Saturday, June 6, thirteen Leaguers learned more about how the League takes action and the difference between lobbying and advocacy. We practiced writing an action letter on the proposed state budget, too.

The League is unique among organizations in that it arrives at its grassroots positions only after study and consensus among members. Members at the local level study issues that can be implemented at all levels—national, state, regional, and local. League action can occur only in support of one or more League positions. If there is not a position to support the proposed action, the League cannot act.

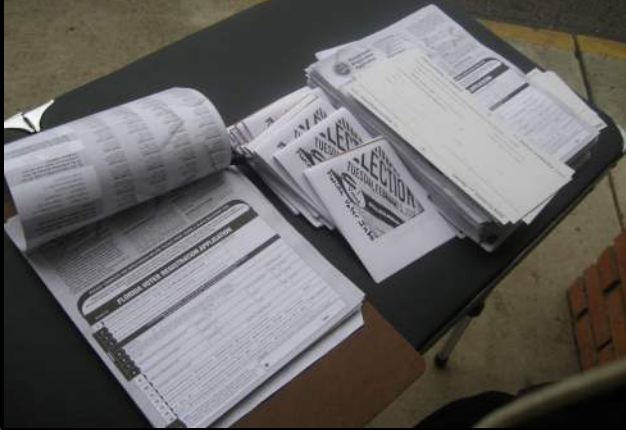
The group viewed the publications from LWV-US, *Impact on Issues* at <http://lww.org/content/impact-issues-online-edition> and LWV-WI, *Position Papers* at <http://www.lwwwi.org/IssuesAdvocacy.aspx>. Both publications can also be accessed from our website (lwwmilwaukee.org).

Action chair Barbara Hussin envisions the group functioning without a lot of meetings. Each member follows an area of interest, be it education, health care, reproductive choice, voting rights, natural resources, international relations, or transportation. When needed, a group will write an action alert to be emailed to all our members, or draft a letter to the editor, or communicate with appropriate legislators. We plan to set up a Listserv of members interested in taking action in the future. For more information or to be part of this dynamic action group, contact Barbara Hussin at lwvbh@sbcglobal.net.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

National Voter Registration Day

Tuesday, September 22, 2015



Join League members and friends in registering voters on Tuesday, September 22, for National Voter Registration Day. The League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County will join other organizations to not only register new voters, but perhaps even more importantly, to update registration for those who have moved or had a name change.

If you're not yet a Special Registration Deputy (SRD), plan to attend a training session at the Milwaukee Election Commission in room 501 of City Hall at 200 East Wells Street. The training is offered every first and third Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. It takes approximately 1 hour and ends with a short quiz. After taking an oath, you're deputized to assist in voter registration. You are not required to be a City of Milwaukee resident to assist its residents in registering to vote.

LWV-Lake Michigan Region

48th Annual Meeting

Friday and Saturday, September 25-26, 2015

The League of Women Voters of the Lake Michigan Region invites the LWV-Milwaukee County to send two delegates and all other interested members and guests to attend its 48th annual meeting in Glenview, Illinois, on Friday evening and Saturday, September 25 and 26.

The meeting promises to be not only interesting, but informative, too, about issues facing Lake Michigan. Presenters include Abigail Derby Lewis, Conservation Ecologist for the Field Museum, and Molly Flanagan, Vice President for Policy at the Alliance for the Great Lakes. Field trips include the Abt Styrofoam and Electronics Recycling Center and Store (bring your styrofoam and electronics) and a guided nature and bird walk at the Grove National Historic Site, across the street from the hotel.

Meeting information and registration forms are available at the LWV-Lake Michigan Region website: lwvlmr.org.

T. Ruth Shank



At the League of Women Voters-Milwaukee County Annual Meeting on May 20, Truesillia “Ruth” Shank was elected co-president with Mary Kae Nelson.

Ruth works as a Community Outreach and Engagement Specialist for the Children’s Environmental Health Sciences Center at UWM, teaches the arts at Milwaukee Job Corps Center, and is a lay minister at Christian Faith Fellowship Church.

She currently is co-chair for the Cleaner Milwaukee Coalition. The coalition was instrumental in We Energy's conversion of their Menomonee Valley plant from coal-burning to natural gas. The community is able to enjoy cleaner air, water, and soil as a result of the coalition’s efforts.

Ruth is also an actively engaged member of the Coalition For More Responsible Transportation (CMRT), is an Alpha Kappa Psi Co-ed Fraternity Alumna, and participates in Milwaukee’s Black Data Processors Association (BDPA).

Her passion and dedication for improving the quality of life for children and families throughout greater Milwaukee is evident. Her support for community-based organizations and willingness to reach out to bring multiple segments of the community (including policy makers) together to carry out environmental public health initiatives is well known.

As co-president of LWV-MC, she looks forward to working in a collaborative manner to achieve record growth through increased diversity of membership, while retaining and engaging new members in a meaningful way. She hopes to develop new community outreach and participation methods, too.

At the LWV-WI annual meeting,
LWV-US recognized LWV of Milwaukee County
for its 2014-15 membership growth of 11%.
Congratulations!

High School Voter Registration Project Update

Michele Goldstein



The April breakfast included presentations by Alderman Ashanti Hamilton (a former Riverside teacher) and County Supervisor Khalif Rainey (a Riverside graduate). Claire Woodall from the Milwaukee Election Commission was on hand to guide the students in completing their voter registration applications.

On April 29, 2015, League volunteers and friends registered new voters at an annual breakfast celebration at Riverside High School. The purpose of the high school project is to register students who have reached the age of 18, with the hope that they will then become lifetime voters. New registrations numbered 82 that day, in addition to the 80 students who registered during the fall 2014 breakfast celebration. We commend Riverside High School faculty who are instrumental in arranging the breakfast.



The Voter Services Committee wants you!

Consider joining one of the voter services work groups, which include:

- New Citizen/New Voter (naturalization ceremony registrations);
- SRD Development (Training/Certification, Recruitment);
- Community Voter Registration;
- National Voter Registration Day;
- Collaborative Registrations with Community Organizations & Institutions;
- Veterans Registration;
- Candidate Forums;
- High School Voter Education & Registration Project; and,
- Registration & Voting Educational/Outreach Materials.

For more information contact: Mary Jo McDonald (mjom365@gmail.com); Dannette Lank (dannettelank@gmail.com); or Michele Goldstein (micheledgoldstein@gmail.com)

NEW MEMBERS

Therese Ballone is especially interested in senior issues as she is a Certified Wellness Coach on Aging.

Nancy Barbieri teaches at UWM and is particularly interested in the Great Decisions discussions.

Barbara Barrish is a former social worker joining at the urging of members Edith Brown and Barbara Overstreet.

Jeanne Durnford is a resident of St. John's on the Lake who joined at the Annual Meeting in May. She's interested in staying apprised of current events.

Deb Dwyer of Shorewood joins the League because of the current political situation in Wisconsin.

Mary Henneken first joined the League in 1964, and is rejoining as a retired social worker who is interested in health care, education, and mental health issues.

Patricia Jursik is an attorney who lives in Cudahy

and represents the 8th District on the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. She looks forward to good discussions and debates on current issues.

Patricia McMahon and Richard Perry are interested in government and social policy.

Barbara and Frank Sandberg are joining due to their interests in women's issues, the environment (Barbara) and registering veterans to vote (Frank).

Kay Smith lives at St. John's on the Lake and joined at the May Annual Meeting.

Be sure to tell anyone who's interested that men are not excluded from the League of Women Voters. We maintain that original name to honor and respect our founders.

Shirley Halloran
Membership Committee



Stay Connected with National League

Get news and alerts in your inbox. Join our online community to get the latest updates from the League of Women Voters! We will send you e-communications to keep you up to date on legislative priorities, efforts to improve elections and educate voters, and news from Leagues around the country. Subscribe at <http://lww.org/get-involved>

MEET THE NEW BOARD

LWV-MC elected a Board of Directors, pictured below, at the Annual Meeting on May 20.



Front Row, left to right: Joanne Barndt, Ann Hetzel, Mary Kae Nelson, Celeste Jantz, Chris Weber, Peggy Creer. Back row, left to right: Chris Hansen, Teri Lane, Anne Creamer, T. Ruth Shank, Barbara Rasmussen, Sarajane Kennedy.

Here's a brief introduction to our newest Directors:

Peggy Creer was welcomed to the LWV-MC during the 2011-12 League year after attending a League orientation at Barbara Overstreet's home. She joined and contributed to the ad hoc Ballot Design Committee's proposal, now part of our LWV-WI positions; has been active in Voter Service; and has agreed to chair Publicity as LWV-MC Director.

Rev Barbara Rasmussen has a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology and a Doctor of Ministry from Garrett Evangelical School of Theology. She retired from Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Milwaukee in 2013. In the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA, she co-chairs the 20th Anniversary Committee of Outreach for Hope, is involved in the Reconciling in Christ team, and the Retired Partners in Ministry. She serves on the Board of Next Door. Barbara joined the LWV in 2014, and will serve as Co-Chair of Membership.

Teri Lane moved to the Milwaukee area in 2013. She was involved in Utah as a PTA Legislative Rep and joined the LWV of Salt Lake City after hearing their daily State Legislature Reports on a local NPR station. Teri has recently joined the board as Communications Team Leader working with the website, email and social media. She will be providing training this year in Google Apps to the Board and League committees as LWV-MC works to foster collaboration and efficient communication among members.

News on Dues

Celeste Jantz

The League of Women Voters-Milwaukee County succeeds because members give generously of both time and money. Without generous contributions of time, the important work that we do simply would not get done. Member volunteer donations of time through Election Night reporting and writing grants provide us with a source of revenue.

But we're grateful for monetary donations, too. Did you know that from each \$70 of individual dues, we forward \$61 to the National and State Leagues? That affiliates us with them and extends our reach.

So LWV-MC keeps only \$9 per individual member to cover all our expenses and to make democracy happen here at home. Many members give generous financial contributions, too, when they pay their dues. Those financial donations provide us with informative speakers, equipment (such as a new projector), and updated voter registration materials. Please consider adding another \$10, \$25, \$50 to your payment when you renew your membership by July 1. The Sustaining Member category of \$100 means you assist those who could not otherwise join us.

Thank you for your continued support of the League. Your generous gifts of time and money enable us to make a difference. We are heading into the 2016 election season when our non-partisan presence is especially meaningful. While monetary gifts continue to be important, remember that your gift of time contributes, too.

Administrative Support Position

The League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County is seeking a qualified candidate for an Administrative Support Position. The candidate must be a well-organized, detail oriented, flexible self-starter who can work with minimal supervision and handle a variety of administrative requests. Applicant will report to the board president and should be available 1-2 hours/day (52 hours/month maximum). \$11.50/hour. Contact the League office at 414-273-8683 for more details. To apply: email cover letter and resume to Mary Kae Nelson at League@lwvmilwaukee.org.

LWV Clearinghouse

The League of Women Voters Education Fund [Clearinghouse](http://leagueofwomensvoters.org/clearinghouse) (leagueofwomensvoters.org/clearinghouse) is a great resource that contains studies and research conducted by League members in more than 50 subject areas. The purpose of the site is to share League study documents among some 800 national, state and local Leagues and with the public. The Clearinghouse provides scope and focus of a topic, research methodology, sources consulted, information about positions, and consensus questions. Note: the Clearinghouse accepts positions without studies, even as multi-position documents, if they are accompanied by a single submission form. The description section could have "Resulting Position:" and the position statement or a link to the position. Complete studies are preferred, and Leagues may add study documents at a later date. Share your studies! Share our strength!

Join Up! Join In! Join the League of Women Voters - Today!

Non-partisan, non-profit since 1920!

Where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement and leaders are actively engaged in effecting change at the local, state, and national levels.

Website: lwvmilwaukee.org

Email Address: league@lwvmilwaukee.org

Milwaukee County Dues (circle one):

\$70 Individual \$110 Household \$ 25 Student

\$100 Sustaining (supports \$25 memberships) \$170 Centennial (supports action & activities)

Financial support available upon request -- call 414-964-9988

Name _____ Home Phone (____) _____

Address _____ Work/Cell Phone (____) _____

City _____ WI Zip _____ Email _____

Interests: Voter Service _____ Lending Practices _____ Government _____

International Relations _____ Environment/Natural Resources/Water _____

Health Care/Social Policy _____ Education _____ Other _____

Please complete this form and **mail it** with your check to: League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County, 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 102, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

league@lwvmilwaukee.org

414-273-8683

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Suite 102

1845 N Farwell Avenue

**JOIN UP!
JOIN IN!**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY**

